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UP026

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REAGAN

UPDATE UP008

BY NORMAN D. SANDLER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT REAGAN MONDAY CHARGED THAT IRAN, LIBYA, NORTH KOREA, CUBA AND NICARAGUA REPRESENT "A NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF MURDER INC.," UNITED IN THEIR FANATICAL HATRED OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN A SPEECH PREPARED FOR THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, REAGAN ALSO SAID THE SOVIET UNION'S "CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ALMOST ALL OF THE TERRORIST STATES" MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

THE "REAL GOAL OF THE TERRORISTS IS TO EXPEL AMERICA FROM THE WORLD," REAGAN SAID.

HE DID NOT DWELL ON THE BEIRUT HOSTAGE CRISIS OR OFFER ANY SOLUTIONS, NOR DID HE MENTION SYRIA AS ONE OF THE PROBLEM NATIONS.

REAGAN URGED THE NATION'S LAWYERS "TO ACCEPT A CHALLENGE" OF FINDING "A BETTER DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR DEALING WITH TERRORISM."

THE PRESIDENT SAID THE STRATEGIC PURPOSE "BEHIND THE TERRORISM SPONSORED BY OUTLAW STATES IS CLEAR: TO DISORIENT THE UNITED STATES, TO DISRUPT OR ALTER OUR FOREIGN POLICY, TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN OURSELVES AND OUR ALLIES, TO FRIGHTEN THIRD WORLD NATIONS WORKING WITH US FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS OF REGIONAL CONFLICTS."

"IN SHORT, TO CAUSE US TO RETREAT, RETRENCH, TO BECOME 'FORTRESS AMERICA,'" HE SAID. "YES, THEIR REAL GOAL IS TO EXPEL AMERICA FROM THE WORLD."

HE NAMED IRAN, LIBYA, NORTH KOREA, CUBA, NICARAGUA, SAYING THE COUNTRIES WERE "CONTINENTS AWAY, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MILES APART," BUT ALL SHARED "THE SAME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES."

"MOST OF THE TERRORISTS WHO ARE KIDNAPPING AND MURDERING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ATTACKING AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS ARE BEING TRAINED, FINANCED AND DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROLLED BY A CORE GROUP OF RADICAL AND TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENTS, A NEW, INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF MURDER INC. -- ALL OF THESE STATES ARE UNITED BY ONE SIMPLE, CRIMINAL PHENOMENON -- THEIR FANATICAL HATRED OF THE UNITED STATES, OUR PEOPLE, OUR WAY OF LIFE, OUR INTERNATIONAL STATURE," HE SAID.

MURDER INC. WAS THE TERM AUTHORITIES ONCE GAVE TO THE OPERATIONS OF "HIT-MEN" WHO WORKED FOR ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES.

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REAGAN-1ST ADD (UP026)

"AT THE CURRENT RATE," HE SAID, "AS MANY AS 1,000 ACTS OF TERRORISM WILL OCCUR IN 1985 -- THAT IS WHAT WE FACE UNLESS CIVILIZED NATIONS ACT TOGETHER TO END THIS ASSAULT ON HUMANITY."

"IN 1983 ALONE, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY EITHER CONFIRMED OR FOUND STRONG EVIDENCE OF IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN 57 TERRORIST ATTACKS," HE SAID. MOST OF THESE ATTACKS OCCURRED IN LEBANON, HE ADDED, BUT SAID TERRORIST ACTIVITY BY THOSE "SYMPATHETIC TO IRAN" HAS INCREASED THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

"WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT LINKS LIBYAN AGENTS OR SURROGATES TO AT LEAST 25 INCIDENTS LAST YEAR," REAGAN SAID. "COLONEL (MOAMMAR) KHADAFY'S OUTRAGES AGAINST CIVILIZED CONDUCT ARE, OF COURSE, AS INFAMOUS AS THOSE OF THE AyATOLLAH KHOMEINI."

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REAGAN-2ND ADD

IN A DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS, REAGAN DID NOT INCLUDE SYRIA AMONG THE STATES HE SAID SUPPORTED TERRORISM. SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD HELPED WIN THE RELEASE OF 39 AMERICANS WHO WERE HELD HOSTAGE FOR 17 DAYS IN THE HIJACKING OF TWA FLIGHT 847.

ASSAD, WELL RESPECTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PLAYED A KEY NEGOTIATING ROLE BETWEEN THE AMAL MILITIA HOLDING THE AMERICANS CAPTIVE AND THE UNITED STATES.

REAGAN NOW HOPES TO ENLIST ASSAD'S ASSISTANCE AGAIN TO HELP FREE SEVEN OTHER AMERICANS STILL BEING HELD IN BEIRUT, LEBANON. THE SEVEN, KIDNAPPED IN THE CITY IN THE LAST YEAR, ARE BELIEVED HELD BY THE EXTREMIST HEZBOLLAH MOSLEM SECT.

THE PRESIDENT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION THOSE SEVEN IN HIS SPEECH TO THE LAWYERS AT CONSTITUTION HALL.

BUT HE DID SAY THE COUNTRIES HE NAMED ARE "NOT NECESSARILY THE ONLY ONES THAT SUPPORT TERRORISM AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES."

"NO FOREIGN POWER SHOULD MISTAKE DISAGREEMENT FOR DISUNITY" IN THE UNITED STATES, REAGAN SAID, ADDING THAT HISTORY IS "LITTERED WITH THE WRECKAGE OF REGIMES WHO MADE THE MISTAKE OF UNDERESTIMATING THE VIGOR AND WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

"SO, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT -- I REPEAT, NOT -- GOING TO TOLERATE INTIMIDATION, TERROR, AND OUTRIGHT ACTS OF WAR AGAINST THIS NATION AND ITS PEOPLE."

"AND WE ARE ESPECIALLY NOT GOING TO TOLERATE THESE ATTACKS FROM OUTLAW STATES RUN BY THE STRANGEST COLLECTION OF MISFITS, LOONEY TUNES, AND SQUALID CRIMINALS SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE THIRD REICH," HE DECLARED.

HE ALSO BERATED THE SOVIET UNION'S COMMENTS ON THE RECENT HOSTAGE CRISIS -- ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES OF LOOKING FOR A "PRETEXT" FOR AN INVASION.

HE ACCUSED "THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN NICARAGUA" OF BECOMING "THE LATEST PARTNER OF IRAN, LIBYA, NORTH KOREA AND CUBA IN A CAMPAIGN OF INTERNATIONAL TERROR."

THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT SPONSORS TERROR IN EL SALVADOR, COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS AND "HAS BECOME A FOCAL POINT FOR THE TERRORIST NETWORK," REAGAN CHARGED.

"THESE TERRORIST STATES ARE NOW ENGAGED IN ACTS OF WAR AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES," HE SAID. "AND UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, ANY STATE WHICH IS THE VICTIM OF ACTS OF WAR HAS THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF."

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